



# Montgomery County Council

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**News Advisory****March 8, 2005**

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## COUNCIL TO HOLD FORUM ON BACKLOGS IN COUNTY MAINTENANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Montgomery County Council will hold a rare Saturday forum on March 19 to receive a report from a Council task force, chaired by Councilmember Marilyn Praisner, that is examining the backlog in needed maintenance and County infrastructure.

The forum is free and open to the public and will be held from 10 AM to 12 noon.

"You know, it's important to build new things – whether it's a performing arts hall or a highway, a conference center or a jail," said Council President Tom Perez. "It's rewarding to cut ribbons and witness progress, except that while we are adding new facilities, many of our old facilities are falling apart."

"We added additional resources for tree trimming in our most recent budget. Yet, we are supposed to be trimming each tree every 12 years. Our current rate is every 36 years. Our backlog is tens of thousands of trees."

"We added substantial money for road repaving in the most recent budget. At this rate, however, we won't catch-up with our backlog for 10 years. Our maintenance schedule for road repaving is a full employment act for businesses that repair busted tires from County potholes but it's no way to run a railroad."

"There are 1000 outstanding work orders for maintenance of our parks. And don't even get me started over our ill-advised decision to suddenly pull trash cans out of most County parks."

"If you think something's wrong with this picture, you're right. We must pay far more attention to the care and maintenance of County facilities."

"We've asked this task force to inventory our County infrastructure needs, prioritize them, and suggest a budget timetable for playing catch up. And I will push to fund these needs in our budget, even if it means that a few new projects have to wait."

**When: Saturday, March 19 10 AM – 12 noon**

**Where: Council Office Bldg. 100 Maryland Avenue in Rockville, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Chamber**

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